



### Abstract of the Disclosure

A method of manufacturing a slider comprises the steps of: forming a slider material including a substrate, a thin-film magnetic head element, and an insulating portion; and a medium facing layer. ~~The substrate has~~ forming a first surface in the slider material by etching a surface of the substrate facing toward a recording medium; and a second surface meeting this first surface. The first surface is located farther from the recording medium than an air bearing surface. The thin film magnetic head element is located near the second surface of the substrate and near the air bearing surface. The insulating portion surrounds the thin film magnetic head element and has a surface constituting a part of the air bearing surface. The forming a medium facing layer in the slider material so as to be is adjacent to the first surface; and ~~of the substrate and has a surface constituting another part of the air bearing surface. The substrate has a hardness greater than that of the insulating portion. As the substrate and the~~ forming a medium facing layer are compared in hardness, the medium facing layer has a hardness closer to that of the insulating portion surface in the slider material by lapping a surface of the medium facing layer facing toward the recording medium and a surface of the insulating portion facing toward the recording medium. The substrate has a hardness greater than that of the insulating portion. As the substrate and the medium facing layer are compared in hardness, the medium facing layer has a hardness closer to that of the insulating portion.

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